

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7015
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI POUCH
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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TAGS: PDIP, PINT, PROP, ELAB, BY
SUBJ: MAY DAY 1978 IN BUJUMBURA

SUMMARY: WELL ORGANIZED MARCH OF WORKERS FROM
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS, FOLLOWED BY UTB
SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPEECH IN PRESENCE OF
PRESIDENT AND OTHER AUTHORITIES MARKED LABOR DAY
1978 IN BUJUMBURA. TURNOUT SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN
LAST YEAR'S; SLOGANS SOMEWHAT Milder PARTICULARLY IN
REGARD TO FOREIGNERS AND SUPPORT FOR REGIME QUITE
CLEAR DESPITE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF WORKERS' DEMANDS. END
SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY GENERAL, UNION DES TRAVAILLEURS DUE BURUNDI(UTB)
SPONSORED MAY DAY CEREMONIES AT BURUNDI STADIUM ATTENDED BY
PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
CABINET MEMBERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND OTHERS.

2. SOME 4,500 WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE
FIRMS MARCHED IN GOOD ORDER INTO STADIUM TO MUSIC OF MILITARY
AND UPRONA YOUTH BANDS AND MASSED THERE FOR MAIN EVENT WHICH WAS
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SPEECH IN KIRUNDI BY SECRETARY GENERAL. CROWDS IN STANDS AND
MARCHERS THINNED OUT PERCEPTIBLY DURING SPEECH OWING, WE
SUPPOSE, TO INTENSE HEAT.

3. LONG AND DETAILED SPEECH DEALT ESSENTIALLY WITH ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS BUT DID FORCEFULLY RAISE SPECIFIC DEMANDS IN REGARD
TO MEDICAL CARE FOR WORKERS, LONGEVITY PAY, CIVIL SERVICE

PROMOTIONS, HOUSING, STATUS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED CORPORATION EMPLOYEES, WAGE SCALES AND PUBLICIZING OF THREE AND FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS. CONCERNING WAGE SCALES SPEECH STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING WWFE LEVELS TO COST OF LIVING AND QUESTIONED NORMALITY OF PAYING EXPATRIATES AND THEIR "AFRICAN ACOLYTES" EQUIVALENT OF 100 TIMES WORKER'S SALARY.

4. SPEECH ALSO STRESSED SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATION SYNDICALE AFRICAINE AND FOR ALL LABOR UNIONS IN WORLD STARTING WITH THOSE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IT CONDEMNED "SOWERS OF DISCORD" WHO CRITICIZED UTB AND PARTY FROM BEHIND THE SCENE AND EXPLOITED TRIBAL AND REGIONAL TIES TO THE PREJUDICE OF A JOINT CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT BY ALL CITIZENS.

5. REVERTING TO QUESTION OF FOREIGNERS SPEECH RECALLED THAT ONLY CLASS OF FOREIGNERS UTB WOULD FIGHT WERE THOSE WHO ACTED CONTRARY TO INTERESTS OF BURUNDI WORKING CLASS OR FAILED TO RESPECT BURUNDI LAW.

6. SPEECH CLOSED WITH EXPRESSION OF CERTAINTY REGIME'S OBJECTIVES WOULD BE ACHIEVED, HAILS TO SECOND REPUBLIC AND CHIEF OF STATE BAGAZA, TO INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF WORKERS AND WISHES FOR PROSPERITY OF UTB AND PEACE TO ALL UPRONA MEMBERS.

7. COMMENT: TURNOUT WAS SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN LAST YEAR'S, SENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SLOGANS SOMEWHAT Milder PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO FOREIGNERS AND SUPPORT FOR REGIME QUITE CLEAR.
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